

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 6-10, 12-15, and 17, as follows and add new claims 18-21 as follows.

1. (currently amended) A process for providing a security document, in particular a banknote, with a coloured marking, comprising providing a photosensitive preparation on a portion of said document and submitting at least selected areas of said portion to a light beam, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said preparation is capable of forming a film on said portion and comprises a substance capable of producing colloidal metal or semiconducting particles under the effect of UV irradiation, and ~~in that~~ wherein said areas are irradiated by means of an UV-light beam so as to produce said colloidal particles.

2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said preparation is an ink or varnish, is substantially transparent before said irradiation and comprises a film forming polymer and a precursor of colloidal metal or semiconducting particles.

3. A process as claimed in claim 2, wherein said precursor is a precursor of Au, Ag or Cu colloidal particles.

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein said film forming polymer is a polysaccharide or polypeptide and said precursor is an inorganic gold salt or acid.

5. A process as claimed in claim 4, wherein said film forming polymer is chitosan and said precursor is a chloroauric acid.

6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, and further comprising the steps of

- a) applying a chitosan solution onto said portion of said security paper and
- b) drying said portion, so as to form a film having a thickness of between 0.5 and 20 μm
- c) applying a solution of chloroauric acid to said portion, and
- d) drying said portion in the dark

7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, and further comprising the steps of

- a') combining a chitosan solution and a chloroauric acid solution in a molar ratio HAuCl_4 / chitosan monomeric unit of between 0.1 and 1
- b') applying said combined solution onto said portion of said security paper and
- c') drying said portion in the dark
- d') eventually repeating steps b' and c' so as to form a film having a thickness of between 0.5 and 20 μm , in particular of between 2 and 10 μm .

8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said irradiation is performed by means of a pulsed excimer laser.

9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein said irradiation is performed by means of a frequency-multiplied solid state Laser.

10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the irradiation is performed by a beam deflection method via a plurality of mirrors.

11. A process as claimed in claim 10, wherein said irradiation is performed via a system of a beam scanning system, in particular piloted galvanometric mirrors.

12. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein a diffractive network is reported into said film.

13. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein a covering layer is applied onto said film after said irradiation, said covering layer having a high absorption in the UV range and being substantially transparent in the visible light region.

14. (currently amended) A process as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and further comprising a reticulating step after development of said marking.

15. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 10, providing an identity marking to said security document.

16. (currently amended) A security document, in particular a banknote, bearing a marking obtained by a process as claimed in ~~anyone of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

17. (currently amended) A security document, in particular a banknote, bearing an identity marking obtained by a process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the amount of photosensitive preparation per surface unit provided to said document is smaller than the amount that is necessary to produce a metallic mirror aspect.

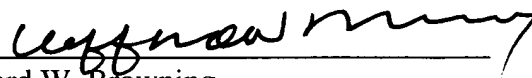
18. (new) A process as claimed in claim 11, providing an identity marking to said security document.

19. (new) A process as claimed in claim 12, providing an identity marking to said security document.

20. (new) A process as claimed in claim 13, providing an identify marking to said security document.

21. (new) A process as claimed in claim 14, providing an identify marking to said security document.

Respectfully submitted,

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